

FY07 Idaho Flex Program Grant: Award Summary

The State Office of Rural Health released guidance for a grant opportunity, funded by the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, in September 2007. Eligible applicants for the Flex Grant included: designated Critical Access Hospitals (CAH), rural health networks (nonprofit and include at least three CAHs); and rural EMS agencies that directly serve a CAH area. Applicants could request up to \$25,000 and the total amount available during the FFY 2007 funding cycle (ending August 31, 2008) was \$100,000.

Seven grant applications from eligible applicants requesting \$171,922 were received. The Flex advisory committee reviewed applications and made the following award determinations:

- Benewah Community Hospital (\$25,000): Implementation and training of Benewah Community Hospital staff in the use of an order entry system. Partners: North Idaho Rural Health Consortium, Kootenai Medical Center, and Inland Northwest Health Services.
- Syringa General Hospital (\$24,382): Implement a system to allow for direct billing of medications, off-site pharmacist reviews, and a repository of medication lists. Partners: Mountain State Family Medicine, and Irwin Drug.
- St. Mary's Hospital (\$25,000): The integration of dictated reports into the electronic medical record. Partners: Clearwater Valley Hospital and Clinics, Radiology Consultants, Heart Clinics Northwest, and Dr. Daniel Schmidt.
- Wood River Sawtooth EMS Association (\$25,000): Work to develop regional protocols for EMS providers, integrate EMS into the rural health care continuum, and strengthen educational cooperation. Partners: St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center, Salmon River Emergency Clinic, and Ketchum Fire Department.